

# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

## Crucial Areas Assessment

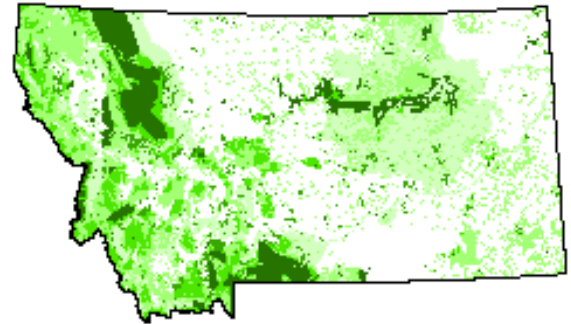
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### DESIGNATED LANDS

**SUMMARY:** Designated lands depict lands having biological, recreation conservation and/or socioeconomic value. This includes, but is not limited to federal and state lands, local designations, recreation areas, and conservation lands.

**MEASUREMENT UNIT:** This layer is comprised of polygons of varying size. Source data were developed at scales of 1:24,000 and 1:100,000.



- Level 1 (Conservation Protection)
- Level 2 (Specific Protection - State & Private Lands)
- Level 3 (Specific Protection - Federal Lands)
- Level 4 (Undesignated State & Federal Lands)
- Level 5 (Planning Areas & Local Designations)

**DATA SOURCE(S):** Designated lands drew primarily from the stewardship layer managed by the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP). Other layers used include Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) lands, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Roadless Areas, and the national Protected Areas Database.

**METHODS:** Lands were categorized into five value groups based on management practices and level of protection. These value groups are defined below.

- Level 1 (Conservation Protection): Public lands and privately owned preserves managed to retain a natural state and protected from conversion.
- Level 2 (Specific Protection - State and Private Lands) : State Lands and privately owned conservation easements managed for specific purposes (waterfowl production, habitat preservation, recreation) and protected from some types of conversion.
- Level 3 (Specific Protection Federal Lands)- Federal lands with preliminary designation for conservation protection from most types of conversion.
- Level 4 (Undesignated State and Federal Lands) -Public lands managed for natural resources including resource extraction (logging, grazing, mining) but protected from conversion to urban.
- Level 5 (Planning Areas and Local Designations)- Lands that may not be managed or protected but are recognized as valuable from a biological or recreational standpoint. The protection status of many of these lands is unknown and some lands are privately owned with no protection.

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**FINAL CATEGORIZATION:** Lands were placed into value groups based on management practices and level of protection.

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